

HOUSING CREDITCONNECT 2 0 2 2 CHICAGO JUNE 21 - 24

ESG Investment in Affordable Housing

SPECIAL FOCUS





#### **DISCUSSION LEADER**

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### HOUSING CREDITCONNECT

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# **ESG Investment in Affordable Housing**

**Allen Feliz** 

Vice President – Affordable Housing Managed Services







#### What is ESG?

■ Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) — is an evaluation of an organization's thoroughness for social and environmental factors

First coined in 2005 in a study entitled "Who Cares Wins"

 at a conference which brought together institutional investors, asset managers, buy-side and sell-side research analysts and government entities to examine the role of social and governance value drivers in asset management and financial research





### What is ESG?



#### **Environmental**

Net zero buildings

Green leases

Electric vehicles

Energy usage

Water and air quality



#### **Social**

Subsidized housing availability

**Equal opportunities** 

Support for local communities

Diversity, equity and inclusion for stakeholders

Voice of the resident



#### Governance

**Business continuity** 

Data subject security

Legal and compliant processes

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion



#### The Need to Act

- ESG has grown from a corporate social responsibility initiative launched by the United Nations into a global phenomenon representing \$40 trillion in assets under management
- We not only have an enormous opportunity to do better but in certain respects, it's imperative that as a global community we act

\$

\$190 bn Spent

On buildings in US



**27% of GHG Emissions** 

Generated by commercial & industrial buildings



**30% Energy Wasted** 

On average in commercial & industrial buildings



### Widespread Adoption



amazon.com

Real estate needs to attract capital

Companies must satisfy investors



Investment, lending, insurance, and legal requirements driven by ESG



Regulators want to reduce energy use



Investors optimize for risk/reward



Insurers need to underwrite risk



Lenders need to underwrite loans



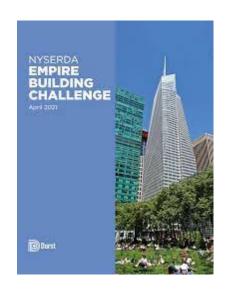
### Incentives for AH Owner-Developers















### **Common Owner-Developer Perspectives**



**New Construction vs. Rehab** 



**Sustainability Initiatives** 



Dashboards & Energy Analysis



Data Collection & Anomaly Detection



**Sustainability Management** 



**Tenant Billing & Utility Management** 



**Resident Engagement** 





### Where do we go from here?

- Current Challenges
- Impact Data Limits
- Technology Opportunities
- ✓ Don't Forget the "S" and the "G"
- Industry Groups Taking the Lead
- Establishing Solid Investment Frameworks

# Establishing an ESG AH Framework Key Questions

Does the investment improve the lives of the residents?

Does the investment reduce the carbon footprint of the portfolio?

Can you prove your impact?

Are you generating a reasonable economic rate of return?

Are you practicing what you preach?



### CONTACT



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### Fitch ESG Relevance Scores

#### **Teresa Galicia**

Associate Director – USPF Community Development & Social Lending Group (CDSL)







# Community Development & Social Lending in the ESG Sphere



- Fitch Introduces ESG Relevance Scores for U.S. Public Finance Housing Credits in May 2020
- Scores are assigned to an IDR or Transaction
- Where Credit Risk and ESG Risk Intersect
- Score (not a rating) assignment is under an ESG <u>framework</u>, not included in rating criteria





### **Credit Relevance Scale**

• The Environmental (E), Social (S) and Governance (G) score ranges from 1 to 5 based on a 15-level color gradation. Red (5) is most relevant and green (1) is least relevant.

CREDIT-RELEVANT ESG SCALE  How relevant are E, S and G issues to the overall credit rating?					
5		Highly relevant, a key rating driver that has a significant impact on the rating on an individual basis.			
4		Relevant to rating, not a key rating driver but has an impact on the rating in combination with other factors.			
3		Minimally relevant to rating, either very low impact or actively managed in a way that results in no impact on the entity rating.			
2		Irrelevant to the entity rating but relevant to the sector.			
1		Irrelevant to the entity rating and irrelevant to the sector.			





#### **Fitch**Ratings

#### Indiana Hsg & Com Dev Auth (IN) [SF June 2016 Ind Prog]

#### USPF ESG Navigator Housing (HFA Loan Prog Master)

Overall ESG Scale

#### **Credit-Relevant ESG Derivation**

Indiana Hsg & Com Dev Auth (IN) [SF June 2016 Ind Prog] has 2 ESG rating drivers and 6 ESG potential rating drivers

- + indiana Hsg & Com Dev Auth (IN) [SF June 2016 Ind Prog] has exposure to low-income resident access; Housing affordability which, in combination with other factors, impacts the rating.
- Indiana Hsg & Com Dev Auth (IN) [SF June 2016 Ind Prog] has exposure to compliance risks including fair lending practices, mis-selling, repossession/foreclosure, consumer data protection (data security) which, in combination with other factors, impacts the rating.
- Indiana Hsg & Com Dev Auth (IN) [SF June 2016 Ind Prog] has exposure to asset, operations, and/or cash flow exposure to extreme weather events and other catastrophe risk, including but not limited to flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes but this has very low impact on the rating.
- Indiana Hsg & Com Dev Auth (IN) [SF June 2016 Ind Prog] has exposure to macroeconomic factors and sustained structural shifts in secular preferences affecting consumer behavior and underlying mortgages and/or mortgage availability but this has very low impact on the rating.
- Governance is minimally relevant to the rating and is not currently a driver.

keydriver	0	issues	5	
driver	2	issues	4	
potential driver	6	issues	3	
not a rating	1	issues	2	
driver	5	issues	1	

#### **Environmental (E)**

General Issues	E Score	Sector-Specific Issues	Reference	E	Scale	
GHG Emissions & Air Quality	1	n.a.	n.a.	5		
Energy Management	1	n.a.	n.a.	4		1
Water & Wastewater Management	1	n.a.	n.a.	3		
Waste & Hazardous Materials Management; Ecological Impacts	2	Environmental site risk and associated remediation/liability costs; sustainable building	Asset Quality, Financial Resources	2		
Exposure to Environmental Impacts	3	Asset, operations, and/or cash flow exposure to extreme weather events and other catastrophe risk, including but not limited to flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes	Asset Quality, Financial Resources; Asymmetric Risk Factors; Geographic Concentration	1		

#### Social (S)

General Issues	S Score	Sector-Specific Issues	Reference	SS	Scale
Human Rights, Community Relations, Access & Affordability	4	Low-income resident access; Housing affordability	Asset Quality, Financial Resources and Program Structure	5	
Customer Welfare - Fair Messaging, Privacy & Data Security	4	Compliance risks including fair lending practices, mis- selling, repossession/foreclosure, consumer data protection (data security)	Asset Quality, Asymmetric Risk Factors; Surveillance	4	
Labor Relations & Practices	1	n.a.	n.a.	3	
Employee Wellbeing	1	n.a.	n.a.	2	
Exposure to Social Impacts	3	Macroeconomic factors and sustained structural shifts in secular preferences affecting consumer behavior and underlying mortgages and/or mortgage availability	Asset Quality, Financial Resources and Program Structure; Asymmetric Risk Factors; Loan and Property Types; Surveillance	1	

#### Governance (G)

General Issues	G Score	Sector-Specific Issues	Reference	G	Scale
Management Strategy	3	Strategy development and implementation	Asymmetric Risk Factors; Management Oversight	5	
Governance Structure		Governing body independence and effectiveness; Degree of political or external influence	Asymmetric Risk Factors; Government-Related Transfers	4	
Group Structure	3	Complexity, transparency and related counterparty risk	Asset Quality, Program Structure; Asymmetric Risk Factors	3	
Financial Transparency	3	Transaction data and periodic reporting	Asset Quality, Asymmetric Risk Factors; Surveillance	2	
				1	

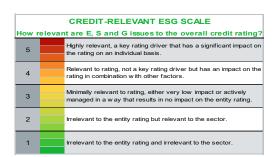
#### How to Read This Page

ESG scores range from 1 to 5 based on a 15-level color gradation. Red (5) is most relevant and green (1) is least relevant.

The Environmental (E), Social (S) and Governance (G) tables break out the individual components of the scale. The right-hand box shows the aggregate E, S, or G score. General Issues are relevant across all markets with Sector-Specific Issues unique to a particular industry group. Scores are assigned to each sector-specific issue. These scores signify the credit-relevance of the sector-specific issues to the issuer's overall credit rating. The Reference box highlights the factor(s) within which the corresponding ESG issues are captured in Fitch's credit analysis.

The Credit-Relevant ESG Derivation table shows the overall ESG score. This score signifies the credit relevance of combined E, S and G issues to the entity's credit rating. The three columns to the left of the overall ESG score summarize the issuer's sub-component ESG scores. The box on the far left identifies some of the main ESG issues that are drivers or potential drivers of the issuer's credit rating (corresponding with scores of 3, 4 or 5) and provides a brief explanation for the score.

Classification of ESG issues has been developed from Fitch's sector ratings criteria. The General Issues and Sector-Specific Issues draw on the classification standards published by the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investing (PRI) and the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB).





### **Scores Cont. Positive ESG.RS**

• For elevated scores assigned to loan programs, an ESG.RS of '4'[+] reflects the <u>positive exposure of social impacts on the rating</u>. Specifically, the score reflects customer welfare as it relates to fair messaging and privacy & data security given the focus on fair housing practices by state housing finance agencies (HFAs). Fair housing practices include compliance risks involving fair lending practices, mis-selling, repossession/foreclosure and consumer data protection. Since strong fair housing practices and customer protection contribute to reduced expected losses, this has a positive impact on the rating and is relevant in conjunction with other factors.

Indiana Hsg & Com Dev Auth (IN) [SF June 2016 Ind Prog] has 2 ESG rating drivers and 6 ESG potential rating drivers

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  - Governance is minimally relevant to the rating and is not currently a driver.







### Scores Cont. Positive ESG.RS Case Study

#### **How are ESG Considerations Delivered:**

- Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's single-family mortgage revenue bonds (June 2016 Indenture) have an ESG Relevance Score of '4' [+] for Customer Welfare -- Fair Messaging, Privacy & Data Security due to it being an HFA program focused on customer welfare and fair messaging, which contributes to reduced expected losses in the rating analysis. The focus on customer welfare includes fair lending practices, homebuyer education and counselling, and loss mitigation strategies, which combined, strengthen the program loan performance, which has a positive impact on the credit profile, and is relevant to the rating in conjunction with other factors.
- Maryland Community Development Administration (MD) [Multifamily Program] has an ESG Relevance Score of '4' [+] for Customer Welfare - Fair Messaging, Privacy & Data Security due to due to the GSE guarantee that addresses access and affordability while driving strong performance. This has a positive impact on the credit profile, and is relevant to the rating[s] in conjunction with other factors.





#### **Trends**

- Requirement for and Standardization Disclosures
- "S" Evolving social dynamics (qualitative to quantitative measures and outcomes)
- "G" Cyber security (adequate planning and management effectiveness)





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# **ESG Investment in Affordable Housing**

Scott Hoekman, President Enterprise Housing Credit Investments







## **Enterprise Community Partners: Strategic Priorities**

We focus on the greatest need – the massive shortage of affordable rental homes – to achieve three goals:



Increase Housing Supply

Preserve and produce good homes that people can afford



Advance Racial Equity

After decades of systematic racism in housing



Build Resilience & Upward Mobility

Support residents and strengthen communities to be resilient to the unpredictable







### Why is ESG important: Value and Values

- Illuminate opportunities a clearer view of our portfolio/performance through an ESG lens will point to potential product development, partnerships and other opportunities.
- Understand Enterprise's own risks- not simply for investors but for ourselves, allowing us to mitigate or pre-empt issues, acting preventatively and managing risks-pro-actively
- Satisfy investor concerns and needs as ESG becomes increasingly important for Investors.
- Attract new investors who need to place their investments with ESG aligned investments.
- Solidify Affordable housing as an ESG investment: Considered a "Strong S" before "ESG" even existed but need to clearly articulate.



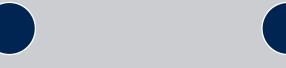


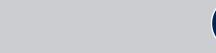


#### **Enterprise ESG Framework: Process**

Assess
Enterprise's
existing portfolio
and operations
through ESG lens

Enhance product offerings in line with ESG principles and values









Guide
underwriting for
potential
investments by
integrating ESG

Track, measure and report on our performance





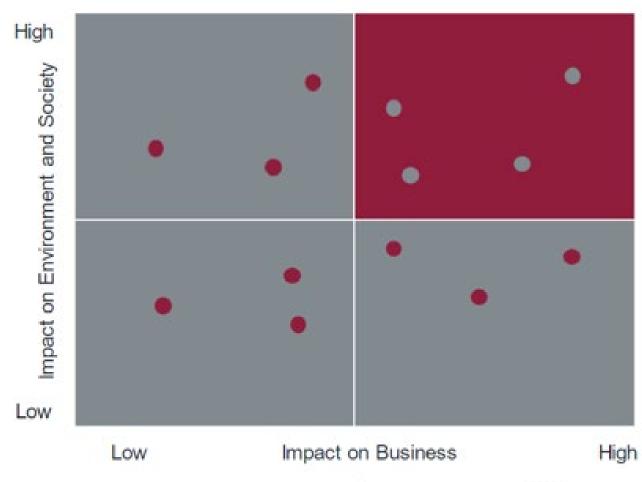


### **Materiality Assessment: Identifying Top ESG Priorities**

### Sampling of ESG issues assessed during materiality phase:

- Wealth Inequality
- Housing Affordability
- Consumer Financial Health
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Climate Risk and Resilience
- Executive Compensation and Incentives
- Public Policy and Advocacy

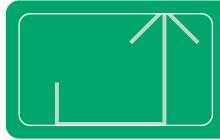








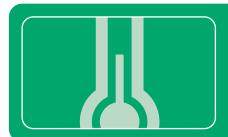
### Affordable Housing: A Solid ESG Investment



Showcases E, S, G values and delivers benefits and multiple returns on Investment



Affordable Housing strong from low risk and return perspective



**Provides visible and measurable impact** 





### **Enterprise ESG Efforts Underway**

 In parallel to the ESG framework development, Enterprise continues to make progress on various ESG-related efforts



GREENING AFFORDABLE HOUSING



NAVIGATING INSURANCE RISK



CLIMATE RISK REDUCTION

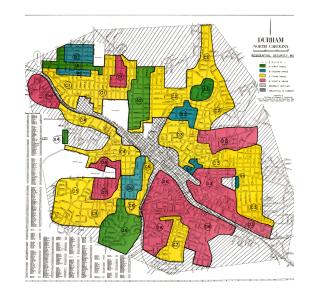




### **Enterprise ESG Efforts Underway**



RENTER WEALTH CREATION



EQUITABLE PATH FORWARD



DISASTER
ACCELERATOR FUND





### **Enterprise ESG Efforts Underway**



IT/CYBERSECURITY



TALENT ATTRACTION AND RETENTION



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION





# Potential roadmap for incorporating ESG into Housing Credit development

- Mutual assistance and support among stakeholders to identify, communicate and report on ESG impacts
- Enterprise and others develop and publish frameworks that affordable housing stakeholders can use to inform and kickstart their own ESG frameworks
- States consider identifying ESG characteristics in QAPs
- Increased benchmarking of developers and investors in ESG leads to increased competition and ESG-driven investment







### **Thank You!**

**Scott Hoekman** 

**President** 

**Enterprise Housing Credit Investments** 

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Director of Investor Relations





### **ESG LIHTC Investing**

- LIHTC is ESG, right?
- Currently self governing
- No certifications or guidelines
- ESG is subject to investors needs
- MIC the Multifamily Impact Council

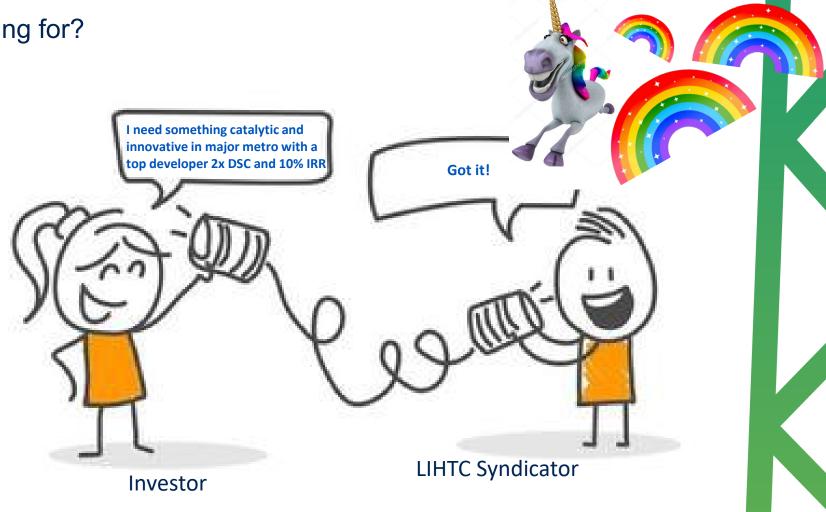


"Regulators have sometimes expressed concerns that ESGwhich doesn't have a defined regulatory meaning—can be a superficial way to market financial products to shareholders' desire to address subjects such as climate change or diversity in the workplace." -WSJ June 10, 2022



### **ESG LIHTC Investing**

- What are Investors are looking for?
  - Innovative
  - Catalytic
  - Measurable "S"
  - Stories of Impact
  - Easy "E" measurables
  - CRA credit
  - PR splash + Glory

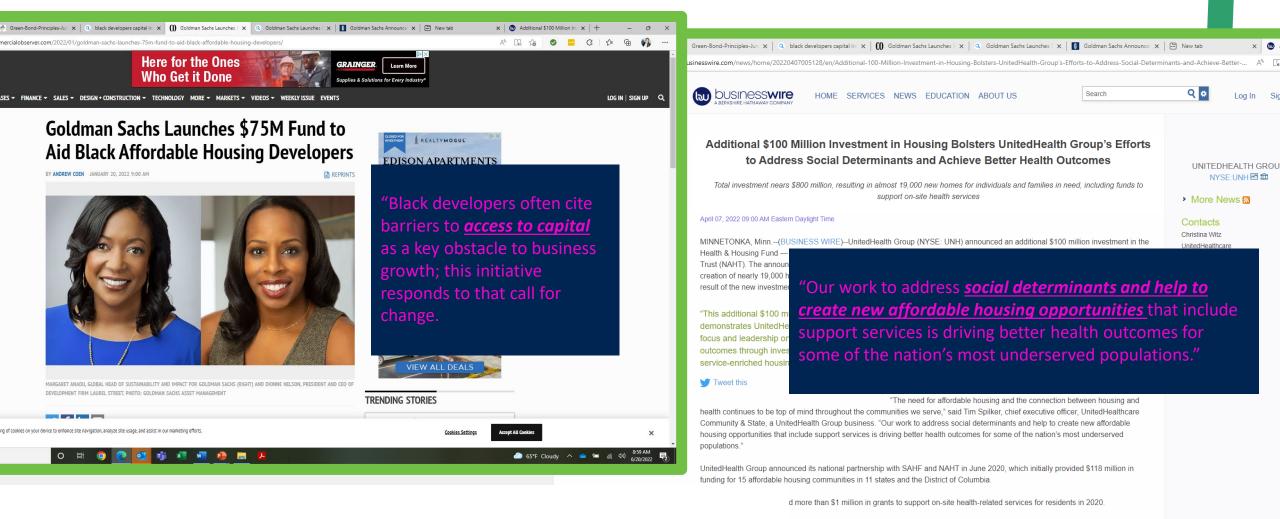




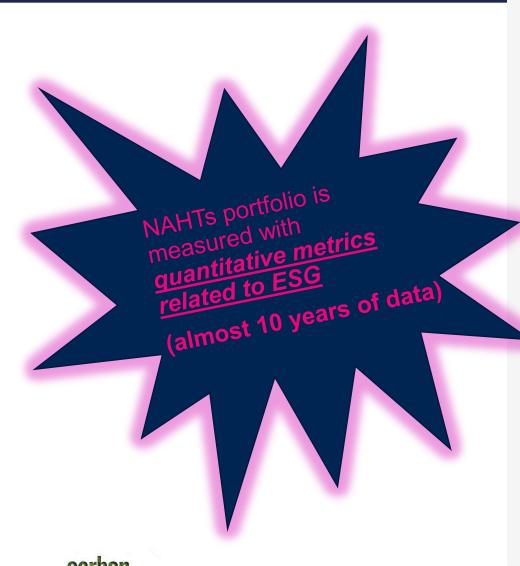


dHealth Group is having a positive impact, helping provide new healthy, affordable homes in communities

### **NAHT Proprietary Funds**



### **HOUSING**



**Coming 2023!** 

**Carbon Footprint Calculator** 

#### **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

**Every dollar spent on affordable housing generates ripple effects** that multiply throughout the economy



AVERAGE ANNUAL **IMPACT OF NEW** 

CONSTRUCTION \$361 million

in economic impact across SAHF's 13 members

3,100

jobs in the national supply chain

RECURRING LOCAL ANNUAL IMPACT FROM **EXISTING PROPERTIES** 

#### \$962 million

in economic impact from property maintenance, resident spending, and taxes

16,000

jobs produced in local economies

#### JOB CATEGORIES SUPPORTED BY AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Construction

Professional

Services

Dining &

Eating



Transportation & Warehousing

Real Estate

Personal &

Repair Services



Finance & Insurance



Health & Education



Utilities

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

SAHF is an industry leader in energy, water, and climate impact

In 2013, SAHF members committed to reducing portfolio-wide energy and water use by 20% by 2020. Results exceeded the goal:



29% decrease in energy consumption

equivalent to charging the entire U.S. population's smartphones for a year

**24%** decrease in water consumption

equivalent to over 2,680 Olympic-sized swimming pools

\$58 million

utility savings

equivalent to

\$400 per household in lower

#### RESIDENT IMPACT

Stable homes are a platform for resident well-being and opportunity. When affordable homes are enriched with services, residents experience transformative outcomes.





1.10%

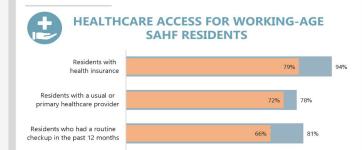
2014

Resident service coordinators connect residents with needed services, such as financial coaching, eviction prevention and healthy living programs. From 2014-2018, families in service enriched properties saw an increase of

2016

2015

compared to a gain of only \$10,000 in properties without services.



#### **UPGRADES TO HOMES**

SAHF members work at every level of a building's life cycle to find environmentally-conscious improvements to properties and homes that also improve quality of life for residents.

RETROFITTED

29,673

**UPGRADED** 

68,060

homes

homes

**INSTALLED** RENEWABLES

146

properties

in portfolio-wide annual

energy and water bills

### HOUSING CREDITCONNECT



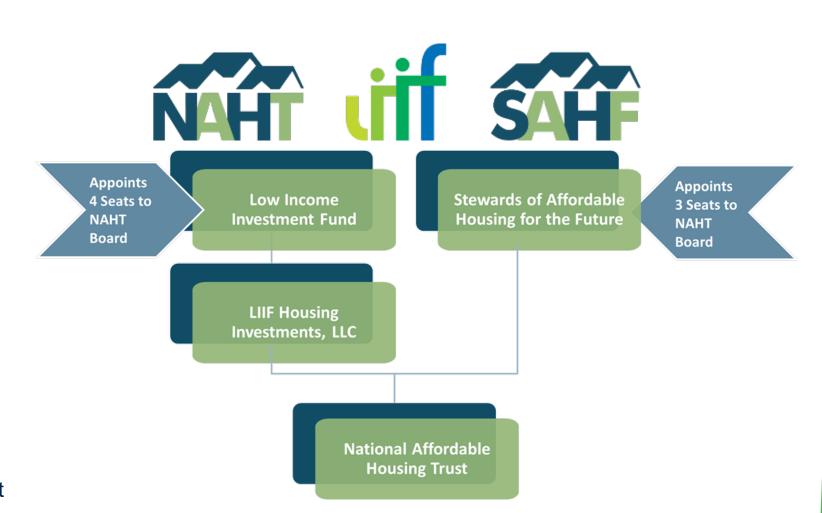


### A Joint Venture



to advance...

- Upward mobility
- DEI
- Access to capital
- Innovative financing
- ESG efforts
- Impact, holistic, value aligned affordable housing development





### Stronger together





- Nonprofit Tax Credit Equity Syndicator
- Nonprofit CDFI Affordable Housing Lender
- Nonprofit collaborative of 12 mission driven affordable housing developers



A holistic approach towards elevating affordable housing



## NAHT's first annual multi-investor LIHTC Fund: The Benchmark Fund

<u>Mission Statement</u> – to invest in ESG and DEI efforts that will help to advance the intention of affordable housing so it may be a bridge for access to fulfilling the universal needs we all share

- \$120MM-\$100MM Fund (NAHT)
- Measured ESG and DEI related metrics (SAHF, NAHT, LIIF)
- Innovative, catalytic, impact driven deals (SAHF developers)
- Innovative, catalytic, impact driven deals (BIPOC developers)
- Support for BIPOC developers with access to lending capital if needed (LIIF)
- Support for BIPOC developers with access to technical assistance if needed (NAHT)
- LAUNCH FALL 2022!







### Thank you!

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